



Rehabilitation Report April 2025

Workforce Wellness

Our rehabilitation staff has been consistent for the past few months and we've been able to build a great team. We are currently staffed with one permanent Physical Therapist and one permanent Physical Therapist Assistant, as well as two traveling Physical Therapists and one traveling Occupational Therapist. We recently brought on Lillee Birchell as our Rehabilitation Tech, who will assist with reception tasks as well as regular engagement in a Mobility Program with Long Term Care residents to encourage more active movement and exercise. Challenges with finding permanent staff remain, however we will be bringing on Hannah Kehrer, Speech and Language Pathologist, for a 2-year contract in June and are happy to be able to resume regular and consistent speech and language services to our patients and residents.

Community Engagement

As a team, we have had group dinners and hikes, as well as joining with the Home Health staff for monthly potlucks. We are working closely with LTC staff for development of Mobility Programs for each resident to improve activity levels in hopes for positive impact on function and morale. Our PRN SLP has designed an hour-long program, "Good Talking With You," designed for parents with children under 5 to participate in activities and games to promote learning techniques for language development. This is planned for April 26th from 9-10 at Good Beginnings Preschool. It is free to the public and is being advertised with the help of the Wellness and Public Relations staff.

Patient Centered Care

Our current staff have been able to improve the waiting times for referrals and are down to a four-person waitlist currently, which has been much improved over the past. We continue to provide one-on-one treatment sessions designed for each patient's individual needs and learning styles. We do continue to have difficulty with using traveling staff, which disrupts care when they finish their rotation. Our need for permanent staff is high and we are working with Human Resources and Public Relations to explore additional avenues for recruitment.

Facility

The rehabilitation department does continue to struggle with space constraints. Our small gym and limited treatment rooms result in multiple patients in close quarters. This negatively impacts focus, treatment, and privacy. We are utilizing the space we have, however do frequently require the hallway, creating obstacles for other hospital workers. As the summer months come, we will be able to use outside space to compensate for our lack of indoor space, when appropriate and agreeable to the patient.

Financial Wellness

We are optimistic about our rehabilitation budget this year with the addition of our permanent PTA and permanent SLP. We will continue to search for permanent PT and OT to fulfill our staff needs, however this is a challenge. Hiring traveling therapists is costly and time consuming for all departments to orient new staff as

frequently as we have been. A full permanent staff would be beneficial both financially as well as for continuity of care for our community.

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